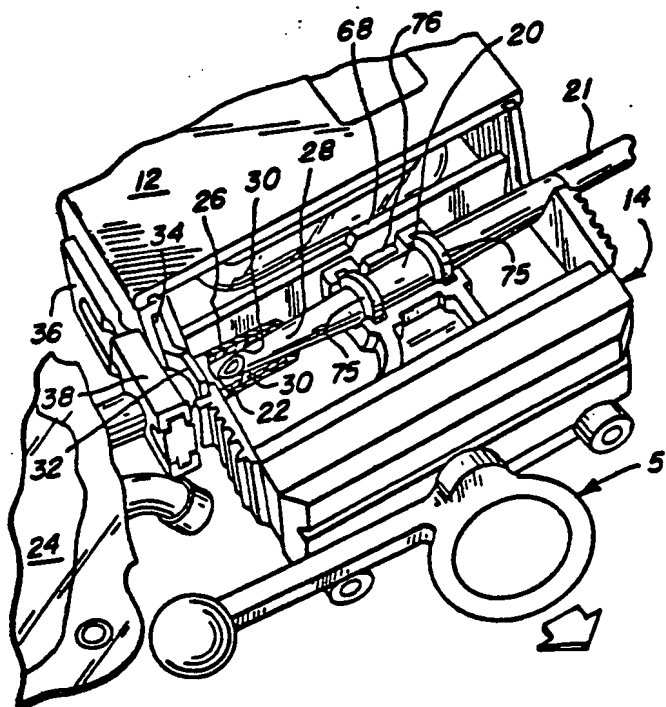




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(54) Title: DEVICE FOR PROVIDING ANTIBACTERIAL RADIATION



(57) Abstract

An apparatus for automatically connecting and disconnecting a pair of connectors (20, 22) includes first and second relatively movable means (34, 40) to carry the connectors and to move them back and forth between connected and disconnected positions. Rack and gear means (42, 44) may be used having a variable mechanical advantage at different positions to facilitate connection and disconnection of the connectors. The apparatus may also have means (16) for providing radiation for antibacterial effect on the connectors, typically ultraviolet radiation.

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DEVICE FOR PROVIDING ANTIBACTERIAL RADIATION5 Technical Field and Prior Art

 In various fields of medicine and elsewhere, and particularly in continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) there is a need to make and break connections between peritoneal
10 tubing communicating with the peritoneal cavity and a source of peritoneal dialysis solution with substantially sterile procedure. At the same time it is desirable for patients undergoing CAPD or another form of peritoneal dialysis on a
15 chronic basis to be released from close supervision by medical personnel and permitted to do the dialysis solution exchange procedures independently at their homes or places of work. However, the need for maintenance of substantially sterile
20 procedure remains critical if peritonitis is to be avoided, particularly in the case of patients on CAPD.

 In response to this, various systems for irradiation of connectors have been proposed, and one has been commercially
25 developed, in which at least the outer connector is made of ultraviolet transparent material, and after the connectors are brought together but before seals are released to permit flow of solution through the newly formed connection, the connectors are
30 irradiated with ultraviolet light for antibacterial effect outside and inside the connectors. See Popovich and Moncrief Patent Application Serial No. 270,800, filed June 5, 1981, entitled "PERITONEAL DIALYSIS METHOD"; Kulin et al. U.S. Patent
35 No. 4,412,834, entitled "ANTIMICROBIAL ULTRAVIOLET IRRADIATION OF CONNECTOR FOR CONTINUOUS AMBULATORY PERITONEAL DIALYSIS"; and Hogan U.S. Patent No. 4,433,244, entitled "APPARATUS FOR IRRADIATING TUBING CONNECTORS. In all of the above references,
40 ultraviolet radiation is used for antibacterial effect in the newly formed connection.



5 Patients who are undergoing peritoneal dialysis on a chronic
basis are often elderly, ill, and debilitated. The disease
which requires their life maintenance by dialysis interferes
with nerve conductivity which, in turn, reduces their manual
10 dexterity. Accordingly, it becomes desirable in the case of
many patients to provide them with all assistance possible in
the making and breaking of connections during peritoneal
dialysis and particularly CAPD operations.

15 In response to this, automatic systems for making and
breaking connections have been provided. For example, the
Steri-Track device which has been used and which is described in
an article entitled "CAPD For the Blind" from the periodical
20 Nephrology Nurse, March/April, 1981, pp. 53-54. This device is
a self-contained portable device. When doing bag exchanges, a
fresh bag of dialyzate is placed into a stationary end of a
holder. At this point the protective tab of the bag is removed,
25 and a spike is taken from the discharge bag and fitted into the
grooves of a sliding plate. The patient now manipulates the
sliding plate toward the bag with the result that the spike will
plunge into the port of the bag with alleged 98 percent
30 probability.

Also, Munsch et al. Patent Application No. 416,785, filed
September 10, 1982, shows an improved device for automatic
connection and disconnection of connectors in CAPD and the like.

35 In accordance with this invention, an automatic connection
and disconnection system is provided, preferably in conjunction
with a radiation system for exerting antibacterial effect on
connectors before or after joining, in a peritoneal dialysis
system or other system as may be desired. By this invention a
40 variable mechanical advantage advancement system of the first
and second means that carry the respective connectors is
provided so that, preferably, even a debilitated person can



5 exert the amount of force necessary to make and break the connection between the connectors, while at the same time the connectors can be separated by a desired substantial distance with a simple short motion of the handle.

10 This and other advantages and features are more fully described in the description below.

Description of the Invention

15 In accordance with this invention apparatus for automatically connecting and disconnecting a pair of connectors is provided. The apparatus includes first and second means for respectively holding the connectors, the first and second means being relatively movable between first and second positions, to
20 cause connectors carried in the first and second means to be separated from each other in the first position, and to cause the carried connectors to be joined together in the second position. Typically, the relatively movable relationship of the
25 first and second means is accomplished by having the first means stationary and the second means movable. However, the converse may be true and, if desired, both of the means may be movable.

30 The first and second means can respectively hold the connectors within a housing, and means can be present within the housing for providing antibacterial radiation, for example ultraviolet light. Also, the housing defines drawer means, the drawer means carrying the first and second means for holding the
35 connectors, to permit exposure of the connectors to antibacterial radiation when the drawer means is closed, but to permit manual access to the connectors when the drawer means is opened.



5 Rack and gear means can be provided for relatively moving
the first and second means between the first and second
positions. The gear of the rack and gear means defines gear
teeth of increasing pitch, i.e., distance of the center point of
10 each gear tooth from the gear's center of rotation. This
increasing pitch relationship is defined about at least a
portion of the periphery of the gear. The rack of the rack and
gear means defines mating teeth correspondingly spaced along its
15 length in positions to permit relatively linear motion between
the rack and gear as the gear rolls along the rack. As the
result of this, the mechanical advantage of the rack and gear
means varies with the position of the gear along the rack
20 because of the varying pitch of the gear teeth. Preferably, the
mechanical advantage is substantially at a maximum when the rack
and gear means are at the second position.

 In other words, the gear teeth which engage the teeth of the
25 rack at the second position are of minimum pitch, i.e., their
distance to the center of rotation is minimum, resulting in the
highest mechanical advantage in the system. Accordingly, it
becomes easier for anybody including debilitated patients to
30 make or break a tight, frictional connection or disconnection,
assisted by the increased mechanical advantage of the rack and
gear means at this second position, which corresponds to the
connected position of the connectors.

35 However, as the connectors are pulled apart, the mechanical
advantage decreases as the gear moves along the rack, with teeth
of increasing pitch being in contact with the rack.
Accordingly, after the original, tight, frictional connection
40 between the connectors is broken, the mechanical advantage is
reduced, causing the rack to move faster as the gear rotates at
a constant rate.

5 Thus, the simple operation of the handle to disconnect the connectors results in an initial, high mechanical advantage for breaking the connection, and then a reduced mechanical advantage to cause the connectors to thereafter move apart more rapidly, for less required motion of the handle.

10 It is generally preferred for the handle attached to the gear to be rotatable only about 180° which, because of the variable mechanical advantage system of this invention, is
15 sufficient to permit the first and second means to be spaced far enough apart to sufficiently space the connectors carried in the first and second means in the first position. Thus connectors can be respectively placed in the first and second means, and
20 the handle turned to actuate the rack and gear means, causing the connectors to be driven toward each other initially rapidly, and then more slowly, with higher mechanical advantage, so that a debilitated person does not have to struggle with the final,
25 frictional locking of the connectors into their connected relationship. Similarly, breaking of the frictional relationship between the connectors is also easy in this system.

 The teeth of the rack may be positioned at differing
30 distances from an axis of relative motion, i.e., any axis defining the relative motion between the rack and gear between the first and second positions. These differing distances of the gear teeth of the rack may correspond inversely to the
35 differing pitches of the gear teeth, to permit relatively linear motion along the axis. Specifically, the sum of the pitch of each gear tooth and the distance from said axis of a rack tooth meshing against such gear tooth may be substantially constant
40 from gear tooth to gear tooth along the entire length of the rack and gear system as the gear rolls along the rack. The result of this is to permit relatively linear motion of the rack



5 along an axis between the first and second positions, even
though the pitches of the gear teeth are variable.

The housing may also define latch means and a latch engaging
site, for example an engaging hook and wall, described in
10 greater detail below, which prevents reopening of the drawer
means after initial closing until the second means is moved to
the second position.

Description of the Drawings

15 In the drawings, Figure 1 is a fragmentary, perspective view
of apparatus of this invention, shown to be holding a pair of
connectors for use in peritoneal dialysis.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary, perspective view of the apparatus
20 of Figure 1, showing it in an intermediate configuration of use.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary, perspective view similar to
Figure 1, showing the apparatus of this invention after the
connection between the connectors has been made and the
25 antibacterial radiation process has been applied.

Figures 4 and 5 are fragmentary perspective views of the
second means and the rack and gear means of this invention,
shown in different positions.

30 Figure 6 is a fragmentary, longitudinal sectional view of
the apparatus of this invention with the drawer closed.

Figure 7 is a sectional view taken along line 7-7 of Figure
6.

35 Figure 8 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line
8-8 of Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view of the
apparatus of this invention taken along line 9-9.



5 Description of Specific Embodiment

Referring to Figures 1-3, the apparatus 10 of this invention includes housing 12 and a slide drawer 14. A convoluted ultraviolet bulb 16 within housing 12 may define a channel 18 (Figure 10) between the respective convolutions of bulb 16 into which the respective connectors 20, 22 may be placed by closing of drawer 14 for ultraviolet irradiation thereof. Connector 20 may connect to peritoneal transfer set tubing 21, while connector 22 may be a flexible, diaphragm-containing tube carried by peritoneal dialysis solution bag 24.

The design of apparatus 10 including housing 12, drawer 14, and ultraviolet bulb 16 may be generally similar to the design disclosed in the cited Hogan patent, except for the design changes described herein. Also, the housing, drawer, and ultraviolet bulb used in this invention may be generally similar in design except as otherwise indicated herein to the germicidal chamber currently available to the public from Travenol Laboratories, Inc. for irradiating connections in CAPD with ultraviolet radiation.

Connector 22 is positioned within a separable, molded member which comprises shaping sleeve 26 proportioned to receive the flexible end of connector 22 and to shape it as shown in Figure 3 into a desired, circular configuration, to receive the spike 28 of connector 20, puncturing diaphragm 30 in a conventional manner. The molded member containing sleeve 26 also carries hexagonal flange 32, which can fit in first means 34 for holding connector 22, which is shown to be a generally U-shaped trough, receiving flange 32 and holding the structure in position.

The molded member also includes sliding clamp member 36, positioned in a slide box 38, which may be of the general design of analogous structure shown in Lueders et al. U.S. Application



5 Serial No. 338,712, filed January 11, 1982 and entitled
"CONTINUOUS AMBULATORY PERITONEAL DIALYSIS CLAMPING SYSTEM", to
serve as a slide clamp to control flow through the flexible
tubing which comprises connector 22, connected to peritoneal
10 dialysis solution bag 24.

Second connector 20 is carried by second means 40 for
holding the connector. Second means 40, as shown by Figures
4-7, is carried as part of a rack and gear system including rack
15 42 and gear 44. Rack 42 is attached to and can move with plate
43, while gear 44 is in a fixed position. Second means 40 is
shown to be attached to rack 42 and to slide in a track groove
46 defined by the front panel 48 of drawer 14.

20 Gear 44 rotates about shaft 50, which terminates in handle
51. As handle 51 is rotated, gear 44 correspondingly rotates,
to move rack 42 between the respective first and second
positions illustrated respectively in Figures 1 and 4, and
25 Figures 3 and 5. Rack and gear systems 42, 44 can be purchased
from Cunningham Industries of Stamford, Connecticut.

It can be seen that teeth 52 of gear 44 define increasing
pitch (distance) from the center of each gear tooth 52 to the
30 center or axis of rotation 54, extending approximately 180°
about gear 44, so that the pitch or distance of gear tooth 52a
from center of rotation 54 is much greater than the
corresponding pitch or distance of gear tooth 52b.

35 It can also be seen that teeth 56 of rack 42 are
correspondingly not in parallel array with axis of rack movement
58 between the first and second positions, but are positioned at
differing distances from axis 58 so that rack tooth 56a is
40 closer to axis 58 than rack tooth 56b. The spacing from axis 58
of the respective teeth 56 corresponds inversely to the
differing pitches of gear teeth 52 so that rack 42 can move in



5 relatively linear motion along axis 58. Specifically, the sum
of the pitch of each gear tooth 52 and the distance from axis 58
of a rack tooth 56 meshing against such gear tooth is
substantially constant. In other words, the sum of the pitch 53
10 of gear tooth 52a from axis of rotation 54 and the perpendicular
distance 55 of rack tooth 56a from axis 58 (Figure 4) should be
substantially equal to the corresponding pitch of gear tooth 52b
plus the distance from axis 58 of gear tooth 56b. Thus as the
15 pitch of each gear tooth increases, the perpendicular distance
of each rack tooth from axis 58 correspondingly decreases. This
permits substantially linear, perpendicular motion of rack 42
relative to axis of rotation 54.

20 Drawer 14 is conventionally slidable into and out of housing
12, taking first means 34 and second means 40 for holding the
respective connectors with it. As shown, first means 34, the
U-shaped trough, is open at the top and defined in a side wall
25 of drawer 14. On the opposite side wall of drawer 14 an open
slot 60 is provided to receive connector 20 of tubing 21 in
sliding relation to it. Housing 12 carries horizontal slots to
intersect the slots defined by first means 34 and slot 60, to
30 permit closing of drawer 14 with the respective connectors in
place. The specific design may be similar to the currently
available Travenol germicidal chamber or the previously cited
Hogan patent.

35 Turning particularly to Figure 7, drawer 14 is shown to
carry pivotable latch hook means 66, which is positioned to
latch against latch wall 68 of housing 12 as the latch engaging
site (see Figures 1, 3, and 7) for engagement of pivotable latch
40 hook 66 and latch wall 68 in the first position of second means
40, i.e., when the connectors are separated, and when the drawer
means 14 is closed. As shown in Figure 7, latch hook means 66



5 defines an angled face 69 which causes latch hook 66 to deflect
upwardly as drawer 14 is closed when it impinges latch wall 68.
As drawer 14 completes the closing action, latch hook 66 falls
back again as shown in Figure 7, to prevent reopening of the
10 drawer in that position.

However, as shown in Figures 1 and 3, the latch wall 68 only
extends across a portion of the width of housing 10, with a
reduced height wall 70 occupying substantially the remainder of
15 the width of the housing. Accordingly, as second connector
holding means 40 is moved by rotation of handle 51 toward the
first, connected position, latch hook 66 which is carried with
it is moved out of engagement with latch wall 68, being capable
20 of passing over the top of reduced height wall 70. Thus drawer
14 can be opened after closing, when handle 51 is rotated as
shown in Figure 2 to move second means 40 into the first,
connected position.

25 Other designs of latch means and latch engaging site may
also be used.

Referring to Figures 8 and 9, it can be seen that second
connector holding means 40 defines a pair of slots 72, 74 for
30 receiving corresponding flanges 751 of a connector 20 as shown
in Figures 1 and 3. A separate partially cylindrical portion 76
is also provided, defining spring arm means for releasably
retaining connector 20. Thus, connector 20 can snap into and
35 out of retained relationship with second means 40.

For use of the apparatus of this invention, a patient on
CAPD has typically drained spent dialysis solution from his
peritoneal cavity through tubing 21 and connector 20 into a bag
40 24. He then inserts connector 20 into first and second holding
means 34, 40 with drawer 14 and handle 51 in the position of
Figure 3. Handle 51 is then rotated to the Figure 1 position,

5 separating connector 20 from connector tubing 22. Bag 24 and
connector tubing 22 are then replaced with a fresh bag 24 and
tubing 22, and drawer 14 is closed to begin irradiation. Line
21 may be closed off with a slide clamp or the like in
10 conventional manner. The molded structure comprising sleeve 26
is placed onto port 22 of the fresh bag of dialysis solution 24
to seat it in the first connector holding means 34 with slide
clamp 36 being closed.

15 Ultraviolet lamp system 16 is activated by the closing of
the drawer in a manner which may be similar to the electronic
system of the Travenol germicidal chamber, with the ultraviolet
irradiation continuing until the desired level of irradiation is
20 achieved. This can be signaled to the patient by known
circuitry, and an indicator light or buzzer, following which the
patient rotates handle 51 again to the configuration shown in
Figure 2, causing the respective connectors to connect into flow
25 relationship with each other. Thereafter, the patient opens
drawer 14 again as in Figure 3, and removes the newly connected
system. He then opens clamp 36 and the clamp on tubing 21 to
cause the fresh peritoneal dialysis solution to flow from bag 24
30 through tubing 21 into the patient's peritoneal cavity.

As the result of this, even a debilitated patient can make
connections with ease, and with improved reliability of aseptic
conditions, with the ultraviolet light irradiation greatly
35 reducing the risk of contamination and consequent peritonitis.
The respective parts exposed to ultraviolet light such as spike
20 and sleeve 26, may be made of known ultraviolet transparent
materials so that their interiors as well as their exteriors may
40 be irradiated for antibacterial effect.



- 5 The above has been offered for illustrative purposes only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the invention of this application, which is as defined in the claims below.



5 THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

10 1. In radiation sterilization apparatus for a pair of
connectors to be joined together, said connectors being carried
at the ends of flow conduits, and said apparatus comprising a
housing, means within said housing for providing antibacterial
radiation, and first and second means for respectively holding
said connectors within said housing in a position to be
irradiated by said radiation, the improvement comprising, in
15 combination, drawer means carrying said first and second means
to permit exposure of said connectors to antibacterial radiation
when said drawer means is closed and to permit manual access to
said connectors when mounted in said first and second means when
20 the drawer means is opened, at least one of said first and
second means being movable by control means operable from
outside said housing between first and second positions, to
cause connectors carried in the first and second means to be
25 separated from each other in the first position, and to cause
said carried connectors to be joined together in the second
position.

30 2. The apparatus of Claim 1 in which said means for
providing radiation is a source of ultraviolet radiation.

35 3. The apparatus of Claim 2 in which said apparatus carries
a pair of connectors in the first and second means for
respectively holding said connectors, one of said connectors
being a port of a peritoneal dialysis solution bag, and the
other of said connectors being attached to tubing which, in
turn, connects with the peritoneal cavity of a patient.



4. In apparatus for automatically connecting and disconnecting a pair of connectors, including a housing; means within said housing for providing radiation for antibacterial effect therein; first and second means for respectively holding said connectors, said first and second means being relatively movable between first and second positions, to cause connectors carried in the first and second means to be separated from each other in the first position, and to cause said carried connectors to be joined together in the second position; rack and gear means for relatively moving said first and second means between said first and second positions, the gear of said rack and gear means defining gear teeth of increasing pitch from its center of rotation about at least a portion of its periphery, the rack of said rack and gear means defining mating teeth correspondingly spaced along its length in positions to permit relatively linear motion between said rack and gear as the gear rolls along the rack, whereby the mechanical advantage of the rack and gear means varies with the position of the gear along the rack.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4 in which said mechanical advantage is substantially at its maximum when the rack and gear means are at the second position.

6. The apparatus of Claim 4 in which the teeth of said rack are positioned at differing distances from an axis of relative motion of the first and second means between the first and second positions, said differing distances inversely corresponding to the differing pitches of the gear teeth to permit relatively linear motion along said axis.

5 7. The apparatus of Claim 6 in which the sum of the pitch of each gear tooth and the distance from said axis of a rack tooth meshing against said gear tooth is substantially constant from gear tooth to gear tooth.

10 8. The apparatus of Claim 7 in which said radiation providing means is a source of ultraviolet radiation.

15 9. The apparatus of Claim 7 in which said housing defines drawer means, said drawer means carrying said first and second means to permit exposure of said connector to antibacterial radiation when the drawer means is closed.

20 10. The apparatus of Claim 7 in which one of said housing and second means defines latch means, said second means being movable by the rack and gear means, and the other of said housing and second means defining a latch engaging site positioned to engage said latch means in the first position and to be spaced from the latch means in the second position, 25 whereby said drawer means cannot be reopened after closing until said second means is moved to the second position.

30 11. The apparatus of Claim 7 in which one of said first and second means defines spring arm means for releasably retaining a connector.

35 12. The apparatus of Claim 7 in which said second means for holding the connectors is movable by said rack and gear means between the first and second positions, said gear of the gear means being attached to a rotatable shaft, whereby rotation of such shaft and gear causes said rack to move in a direction



5 transverse of said shaft, said shaft terminating in a rotatable handle.

10 13. The apparatus of Claim 7 in which said shaft carries rotatable handle means adapted to rotate substantially 180° to cause said second means to move between the first and second positions.

15 14. An apparatus for automatically connecting and disconnecting a pair of connectors, including a housing, and means within said housing for providing radiation for antibacterial effect therein; first and second means for respectively holding said connectors, said second means being relatively movable between first and second positions to cause
20 connectors carried in the first and second means to be separated from each other in the first position and to cause said carried connectors to be joined together in the second position, rack and gear means for relatively moving said first and second means
25 between said first and second positions, the gear of said rack and gear means defining gear teeth of increasing pitch from its center of rotation about at least a portion of its periphery, the rack of said rack and gear means defining teeth which are
30 positioned at differing distances from an axis of relative motion of the first and second means between the first and second positions, said differing distances inversely corresponding to the differing pitches of the gear teeth to
35 permit relatively linear motion along said axis between said rack and gear as the gear rolls along the rack, whereby the mechanical advantage of the rack and gear means varies with the position of the gear along the rack, said mechanical advantage
40 being substantially at its maximum when the rack and gear means are at the second position.



5 15. The apparatus of Claim 14 in which the sum of the pitch of each gear tooth and the distance from said axis of a rack tooth meshing against said gear tooth is substantially constant from gear tooth to gear tooth.

10 16. The apparatus of Claim 15 in which said radiation providing means is a source of ultraviolet radiation.

15 17. An apparatus for automatically connecting and disconnecting a pair of connectors, including first and second means for respectively holding said connectors, said first and second means being relatively movable between first and second positions to cause connectors carried in the first and second means to be separated from each other in the first position, and
20 to cause said carried connectors to be joined together in the second position, rack and gear means for relatively moving said first and second means between said first and second positions, the gear of said rack and gear means defining gear teeth of
25 increasing pitch from its center of rotation about at least a portion of its periphery, the rack of said rack and gear means defining mating teeth correspondingly spaced along its length in positions to permit relatively linear motion between said rack
30 and gear as the gear rolls along the rack, whereby the mechanical advantage of the rack and gear means varies with the position of the gear along the rack, said apparatus including a housing, and means within said housing for providing radiation
35 for antibacterial effect therein, said housing defining drawer means, said drawer means carrying said first and second means to permit exposure of said connectors to antibacterial radiation when the drawer means is closed, one of said drawer means and
40 second means defining latch means, said second means being



5 movable by the rack and gear means, and the other of said drawer
means and second means defining a latch engaging site positioned
to engage said latch means in the first position and to be
10 spaced from the latch means in the second position, whereby said
drawer means cannot be reopened after closing until said second
means is moved to the second position.

15 18. The apparatus of Claim 17 in which the mechanical
advantage of the rack and gear means is substantially at its
maximum when the rack and gear means are at the second position,
the teeth of said rack being positioned at differing distances
from an axis of relative motion of the first and second means
20 between the first and second positions, said differing distances
inversely corresponding to the differing pitches of the gear
teeth to permit relatively linear motion along said axis.

25 19. The apparatus of Claim 18 in which one of said first
and second means defines spring arm means for releasably
retaining a connector.

30 20. The apparatus of Claim 19 in which said second means
for holding the connectors is movable by said rack and gear
means between the first and second positions, said gear of the
gear means being attached to a rotatable shaft whereby rotation
of such shaft and gear causes said rack to move in a direction
transverse of said shaft, said shaft terminating in a rotatable
handle.

35 21. The apparatus of Claim 20 in which said shaft carries
rotatable handle means adapted to rotate substantially 180° to
cause said second means to move between the first and second
positions.



5 22. An apparatus for automatically connecting and
disconnecting a pair of connectors, including a housing; means
within said housing for providing radiation for antibacterial
effect therein; first and second means for respectively holding
10 said containers, said first and second means being relatively
movable between first and second positions, to cause connectors
carried in the first and second means to be separated from each
other in the first position, and to cause said carried
15 connectors to be joined together in the second position; means
for relatively moving said first and second means between said
first and second positions; said housing defining housing, said
housing carrying said first and second means, to permit exposure
20 of said connector to antibacterial radiation when the drawer is
closed and to provide access to said connector when the housing
is open, said second means being movable by said relatively
movable means, one of said housing and second means defining
25 latch means, the other of said housing and second means defining
a latch engaging site positioned to engage said latch means in
the first position and to be spaced from the latch means in the
second position, whereby said housing cannot be reopened after
30 closing until said second means is moved to the second position.

23. The apparatus of Claim 22 in which said radiation
providing means is a source of ultraviolet radiation.

35 24. The apparatus of Claim 22 in which said second means
for holding the connectors is movable by rack and gear means
between the first and second positions, said gear of the gear
means being attached to a rotatable shaft, whereby rotation of
said shaft and gear causes said rack to move in a direction
40 transverse of said shaft, said shaft terminating in a rotatable
handle.



- 5 25. The apparatus of Claim 22 in which said shaft and rotatable handle is adapted to rotate substantially 180° to cause said second means to move between the first and second position.



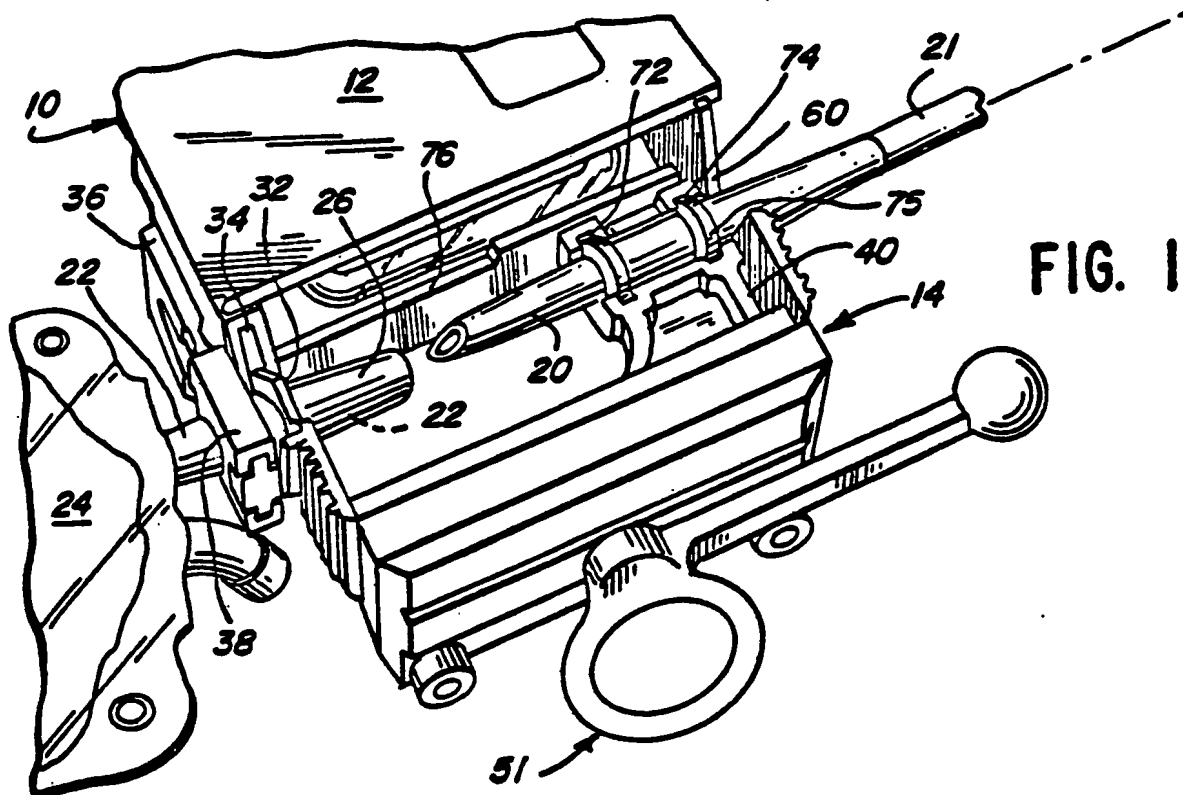


FIG. 1

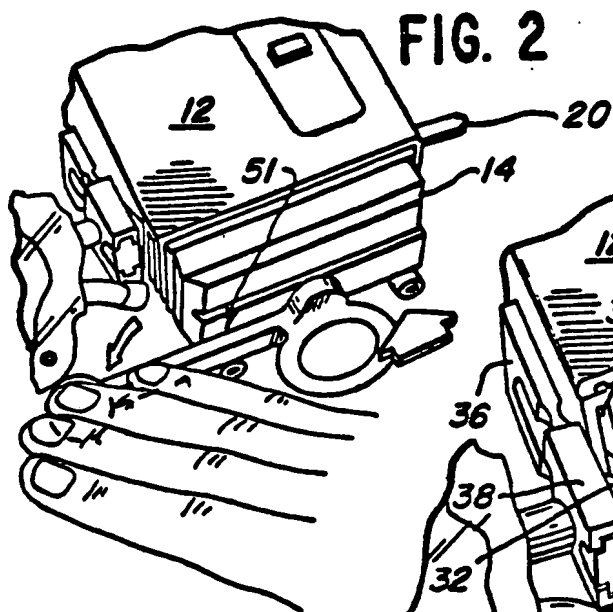


FIG. 2

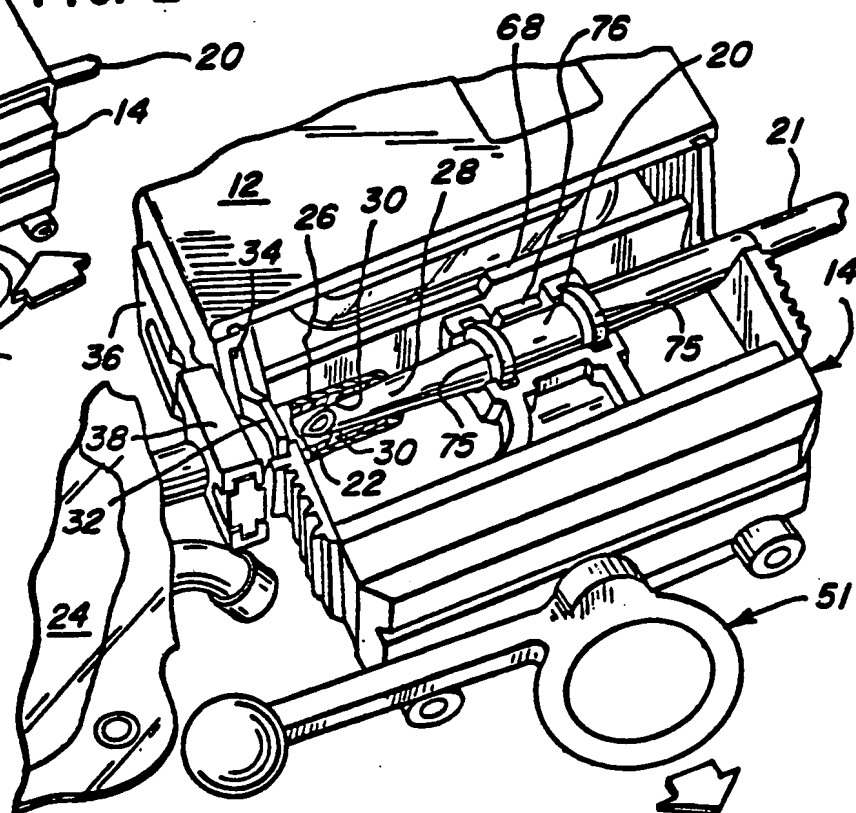


FIG. 3

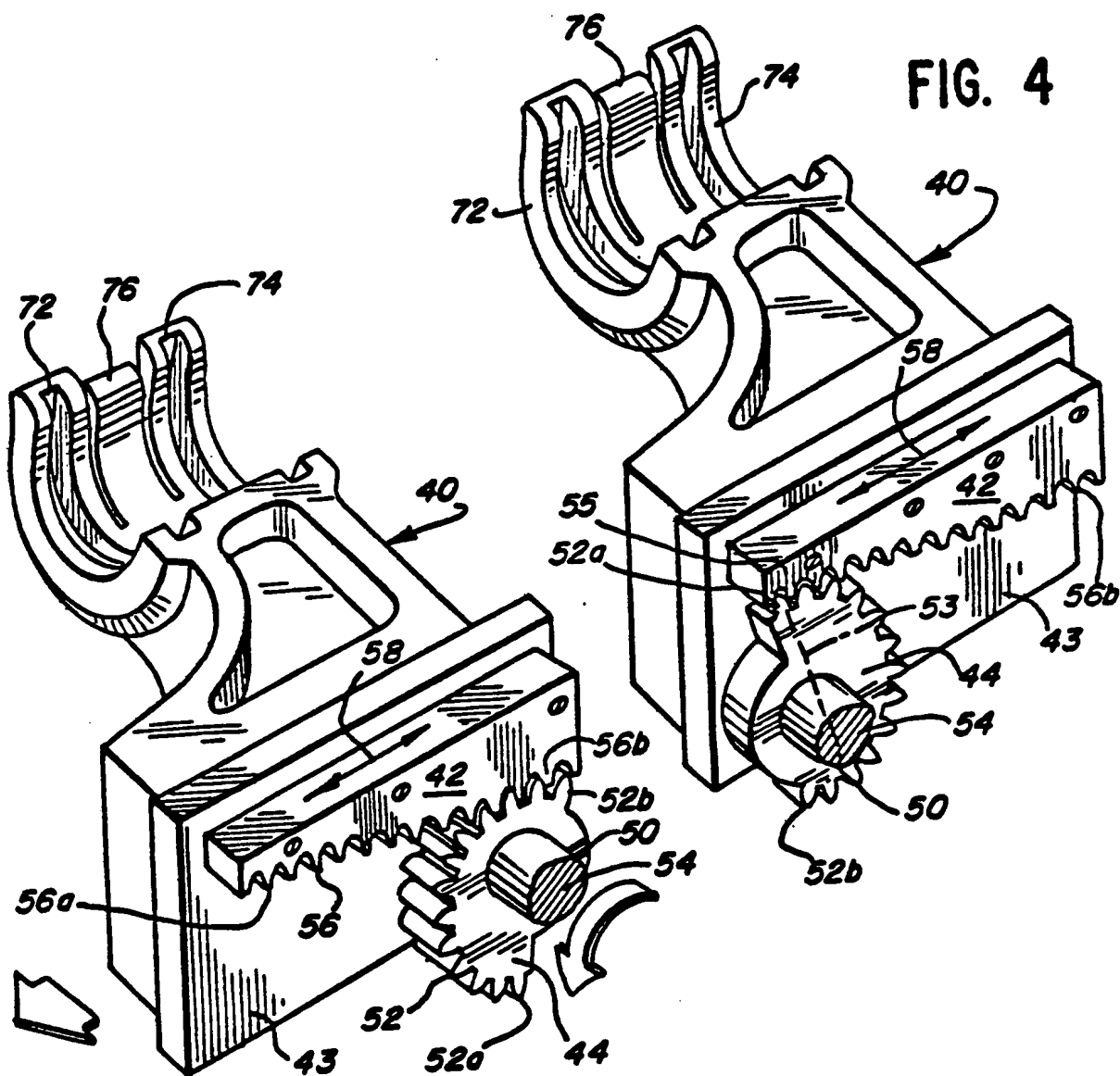
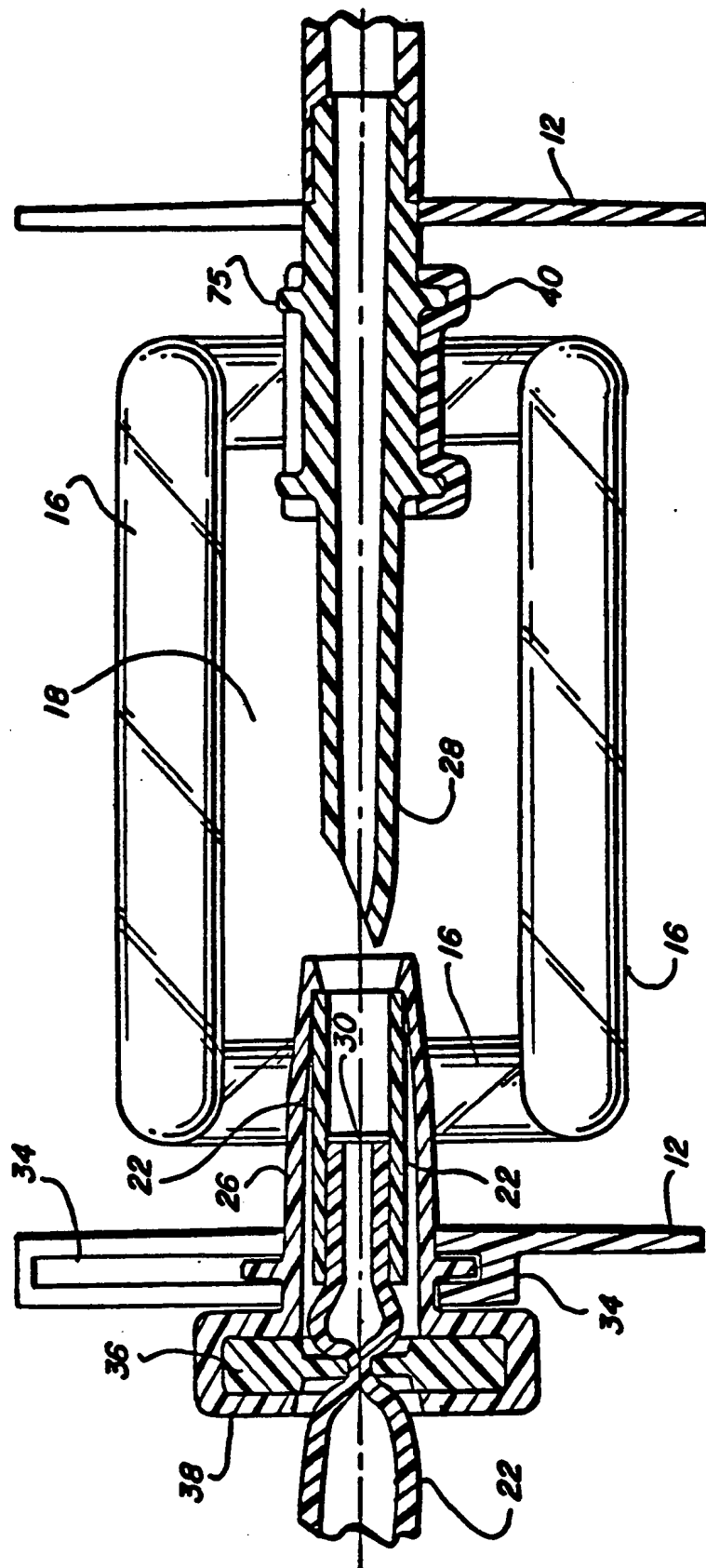


FIG. 5

FIG. 9



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application PCT/US84/00929

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ³ According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC INT. CL. A61L 2/10; A61M 31/00 U.S. CL. 250/455.1; 604/29, 283, 905																	
II. FIELDS SEARCHED <div style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;">Minimum Documentation Searched ⁴</div> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 30%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Classification System</th> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Classification Symbols</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;">U.S.</td> <td style="padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;">250/455.1 604/29, 244, 283, 411, 905</td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;">Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁵</div>			Classification System	Classification Symbols	U.S.	250/455.1 604/29, 244, 283, 411, 905											
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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>[*] Special categories of cited documents: ¹⁹</p> <p>^{"A"} document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>^{"E"} earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>^{"L"} document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>^{"O"} document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>^{"P"} document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>^{"T"} later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>^{"X"} document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>^{"Y"} document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>^{"A"} document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>																	
IV. CERTIFICATION <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search ²</td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Date of Mailing of this International Search Report ³</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">09 August 1984</td> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;">23 AUG 1984</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">International Searching Authority ¹</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Signature of Authorized Officer ²⁰</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">ISA/US</td> <td style="padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Jack I. Berman </td> </tr> </table>			Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search ²	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report ³	09 August 1984	23 AUG 1984	International Searching Authority ¹	Signature of Authorized Officer ²⁰	ISA/US	 Jack I. Berman							
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